

TIVERTON CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Regular meeting minutes: February 13, 2008

1: Call to order

Chairman Cecil Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm at the Tiverton Town Hall.

Members present: Laura Epke, Frank Marshall, Ray Medeiros, Stanley Zeramby, Deb Pallasch, Bob Koohy Absent: Richard Joslin, Diane Harris

2: Approval of minutes

Motion made by B. Koohy, seconded by L. Epke to approve minutes for Feb. 6, 2008. Motion passed with L. Epke, F. Marshall, R. Medeiros, B. Koohy, and C. Leonard in favor. None opposed. S. Zeramby, D. Pallasch abstained.

3. Public Input

None

4. Publicity

Chair to pursue with tax collector possibility of including one-page flyer re: charter changes with tax bill.

Reported that Steve Rys will tape the public forum.

Chair to appear on the Town Council agenda for approval of advertising funding.

5. Preliminary Commission discussion re: input for proposed changes

Continued comments from Bob Martin re: section 905 to the next meeting. Secretary to look up the applicable law for the next meeting. No other actions proposed on comments made at the prior meeting.

Discussion of Public Forum presentation:

The Chair at the beginning of the hearing will give a short 10-15 minute presentation of the process and “how we got here”. D.Pallasch and L. Epke will work on various slides for review at the next meeting:

1. Thank you
2. Ballot question/vote count/mission statement
3. List of invited groups/individuals
4. 7 alternatives
5. Pro/Cons of the 7

6. 2 remaining
7. Pros/Cons of the 2 remaining
8. Budget Flow Chart Now
9. Budget Flow Chart Proposed
10. Working Doc
11. Next steps
12. Thank you

Working Document discussion:

- Motion by C. Leonard, seconded by R. Medeiros, to remove option #3 “Non-binding referendum with signature of “X” number of electors be allowed to be placed on the ballot by electors for anything going into the Industrial Park or for any other item electors feel the Council should seek citizen guidance on before making a final decision.” from working doc.
Motion passed with F. Marshall, R. Medeiros, S. Zeramby, B. Koohy, and C. Leonard in favor. L. Epke, D. Pallasch opposed.
- Motion by D. Pallasch, seconded by L. Epke, to remove option #4 “Give Town Council access to all resumes and interviews for dept. head hirings” from working doc.
Motion passed with F. Marshall, R. Medeiros, S. Zeramby, and D. Pallasch in favor. L. Epke, C. Leonard, B. Koohy opposed.
- Motion by F. Marshall, seconded by C. Leonard, to amend option #2 to change percentage of unreserved general fund to be maintained from 3-6% to 3-5%.
Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by L. Epke to remove option #5 “Clarify Town Administrator should select dept heads, with Town Council making policy” from working doc. NO second.
- Motion by F. Marshall, seconded by D. Pallasch, to remove “with Town Council making policy” from #5.
Motion passed with F. Marshall, R. Medeiros, S. Zeramby, C. Leonard, B. Koohy and D. Pallasch in favor. L. Epke opposed.
- Motion by F. Marshall, seconded by D. Pallasch, to reconsider the vote on option #4, after substantial discussion F. Marshall, R. Medeiros, S. Zeramby, D. Pallasch opposed to further reconsideration.
- Motion by C. Leonard, seconded by L. Epke, to remove #6 “To facilitate better communication throughout town government and with public, town should have a quarterly “meeting of the minds” including such groups as Town Council, School Committee, Town Administrator, Town Clerk and various boards and commissions” from the working doc.
Motion passed unanimously.

- Motion by F. Marshall, seconded by R. Medeiros, to remove option #7 “All boards and commissions should have yearly briefing from Town Solicitor on laws re: open meetings/open records/minutes, Robert’s rules, etc.” from working doc.
Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by L. Epke, seconded by F. Marshall, to remove option #8 “Collective bargaining contracts may not be ratified any sooner than 30 days following the FTM or its alternative” from working doc.
Motion passed with F. Marshall, R. Medeiros, C. Leonard, L. Epke and D. Pallasch in favor. S. Zeramby opposed. B. Koohy abstained.
- Motion by D. Pallasch, seconded by L. Epke, to move option #11 “Clarify how disposal of town-owned land will be handled” to item #1 on the working doc.
Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by D. Pallasch, seconded by C. Leonard, to remove option #13 “Amend charter for suggested changes to section 1004, Open Space Commission, to more clearly define open space and acknowledge and provide legal standing for the stewardship currently done by volunteers” from working doc.
Motion passed unanimously. Note that town solicitor had previously indicated that town employees were covered by the town’s insurance - the Chair confirmed with insurance carrier. Commission therefore passed on amendment to clarify open space.
- Motion by D. Pallasch, seconded by L. Epke, to remove option #15 “Require by charter that bond issue payments may not be excluded from the calculation of the maximum tax increase, as currently allowed by state if payment exceeds allowable percentage increase” from working doc.
Motion passed with R. Medeiros, C. Leonard, L. Epke, D. Pallasch, S. Zeramby and B. Koohy in favor. F. Marshall opposed.

6. Other Business

None

7. Adjournment

The Commission’s February 13, 2008 regular meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Minutes recorded and compiled by Deborah Pallasch, Secretary.